

“the structure of the protein hydrolysate since each molecular weight is drawn to a different structure” (see page 4 of the Office Action dated February 5, 2007)

is not understood as the present application relates to hydrolysates which are enriched in peptides with a carboxyterminal proline. By the use of the tripeptidyl-peptidase, the applicants are able to enrich the hydrolysates with especially tripeptides having the carboxyterminal proline. A hydrolysate or protein hydrolysate is a protein which is hydrolysed for example by a protease. The hydrolysate is thus a mixture of peptides which, in general, have all kinds of different amino acid sequences. Therefore, the Examiner's requirement for a specific structure is not clear. Further clarification and basis for the requirement within the context of the disclosed and claimed invention are requested in the event the requirement is maintained.

Search and examination of all of the claimed subject matter are requested in an early and favorable Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:                     /B. J. Sadoff/                      
                    B. J. Sadoff  
                    Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100